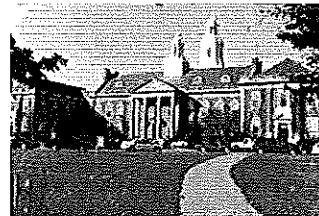


Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	NWT.2891
Historic Name:	Newton City Hall and War Memorial
Common Name:	
Address:	1000 Commonwealth Ave
City/Town:	Newton
Village/Neighborhood:	Newton Center
Local No:	NC-041; 641-001-0001
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	Allen and Collens; Collens, Willis and Beckonert; Olmsted Brothers
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial Revival
Use(s):	Military Other; Other Governmental or Civic; Town Hall
Significance:	Architecture; Community Planning; Landscape Architecture; Military; Politics Government
Area(s):	NWT.Z: Newton Multiple Resource Area - 1908-1940
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register Individual Property (2/16/1990); Nat'l Register MRA (2/16/1990)



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

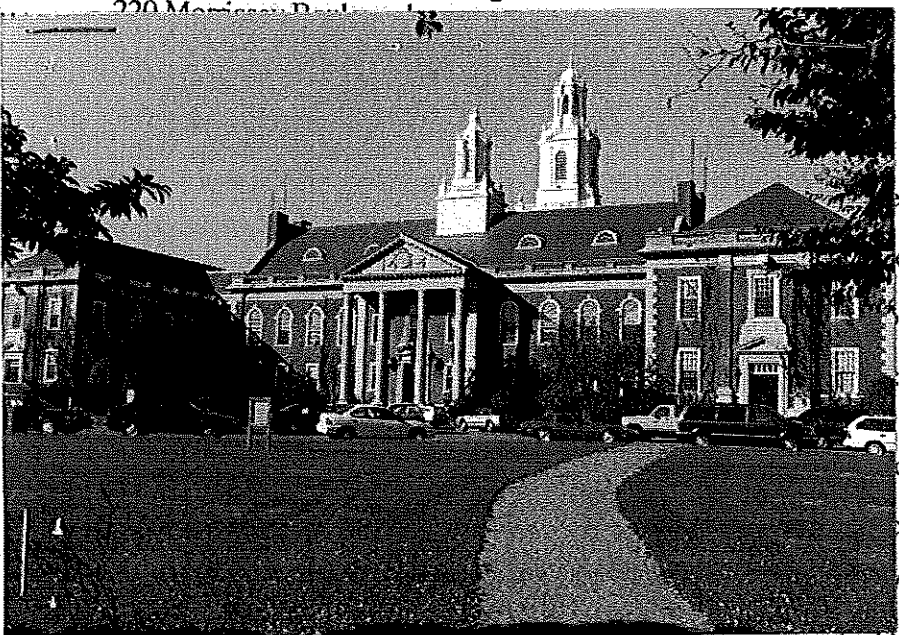
This file was accessed on:

Thursday, January 30, 2014 at 4:19: PM

NR 111000 - 2/16/76
NWT 2891

FORM B - BUILDING

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Blvd
Assessor's number 641/001/0001
USGS Quad Boston, South
Area(s) z
Form Number 2891



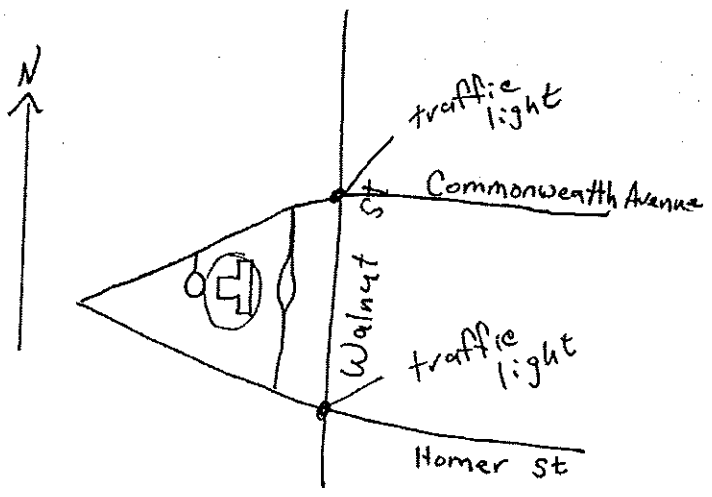
Newton
(neighborhood or village) Newton Center
Address 1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Historic Name City Hall & War Memorial
Present City Hall
Original Same
Year of Construction 1932
Type Building Permit
Style/Form Georgian Revival

Architect/Builder Collens, Willis & Beckonert
(Landscape) Olmsted Brothers

Exterior Materials:
Foundation Cut Stone
Wall/Trim Brick
Roof Slate
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures None
Major Alterations (with dates) None

Condition Good
Moved No
Acreage 432,308 Sq Feet

Setting Park Grounds Overlooking Small Pond Formed By Damming Site.



Recorded by Joseph P. Cornish
Organization Boston University
Date (month/year) October, 1997

RECEIVED
MAR 16 1999

MASS HIST COM

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Newton City Hall is a monumental example of institutional Georgian Revival design that also accommodates the function of War Memorial. The patriotic associations of the style also made it particularly popular for town and city halls in the 20th century. Here, even the Aldermanic Chamber is based on a famous Colonial model: Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The War Memorial facade consists of a raised central section with a pedimented portico and crowning cupola. It is flanked by hip roof wings. The City Hall facade is similar, but less monumental in the smaller scale of its portico and cupola. Pedimented entry porticos are also located on the side elevations, along with large arched windows in the War Memorial section, and arched windows on the second floor of the City Hall section. The building is greatly enhanced by its picturesque landscape, which was designed by Olmsted Brothers. In 1997 a new balustrade of unpainted lead coated copper was installed around the roofline of the building. Historic photographs at the Jackson Homestead which date from 1946 prove that the balustrade was originally painted white.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owner/occupants played within the community.

When Newton became a city in 1873, the old town hall on Washington street in West Newton was refurbished and became the City Hall. This building served for 59 years and was not replaced until 1932 when the new City Hall at the corner of Walnut Street and Commonwealth Avenue was built. The new building had a dual function, serving as a memorial to veterans and soldiers who died in World War I, as well as providing new quarters for the City Hall. Two cornerstones, one for the City Hall and one for the War Memorial were laid on Armistice Day, November 11, 1931. Formal dedication of the combined buildings took place on November 11, 1932. The design was executed by the firm of Allen and Collens, whose principle architect, Charles Collens, lived at 200 Dudley Road in Newton Centre. Olmsted Brothers of Brookline designed the building's park-like setting.

The city had received permission from the legislature to borrow outside the debt limit in order to construct the building. Although some felt that construction of such a large building during the Depression seemed unwise, Mayor Weeks rebutted criticism of the project citing the fact that such a public works project would relieve unemployment; 80% of the men working on the project were Newton residents. In his remarks at the dedication, Weeks stated that the location of the City Hall near the geographical center of the city was quite fitting, and that it would mitigate the sectionalism which was sometimes apparent between the various villages.

Newton City Hall won the J. Hareston Parker award of the Boston Society of Architects in 1936 for the most beautiful building of that period.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

*Building Department Records
Newton Graphic August 16, 1931*

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

FORM B - BUILDING

Newton, MA-MRA

NWT.2891

AREA

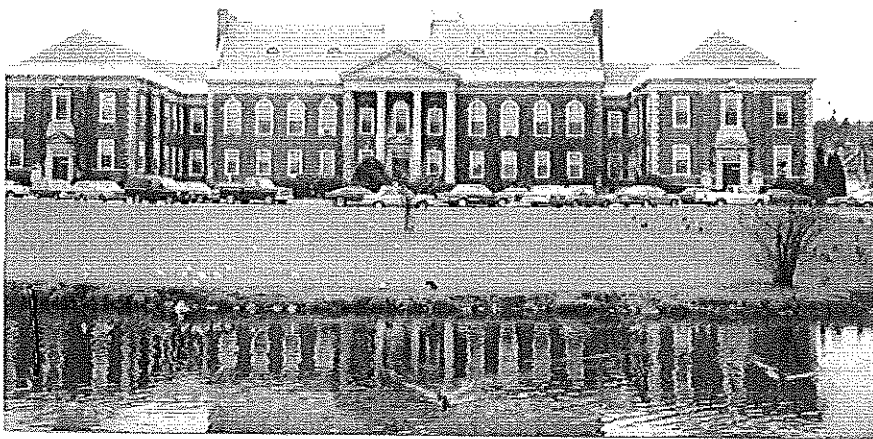
FORM NO.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

NC-041



Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location

n Newton (Newton Centre)ress 1000 Commonwealth Avenuetoric Name Newton City Hall and
War Memorial: Present City Hall & War MemorialOriginal same

DESCRIPTION

e 1932ce Building permitle Georgian RevivalArchitect Olmsted Brothers (Landscape)
Allen & Collenserior Wall Fabric brickbuildings noneor Alterations (with dates) nonedition gooded no Date n/aeage 432,308 sq.ft. C 9.9Ating triangular parcel defined by WalnutStreet (E), Comm. Ave. (N), HomerStreet (S); overlooking small pondimportant
formed by damming site; landscapeRecorded by Candace Jenkins/Susan AbeleOrganization Newton Historical Comm.Date 3/87; rev. 5/88UTM REFERENCE C 19/318 120/4689220USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTONSCALE 1:25000

A 19/317750/4689440

B 19/318150/4689480

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Newton City Hall and War Memorial possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Constructed in 1931-32, it is a significant reflection of Newton's growth as a city and of civic pride. The monumental Georgian Revival style structure which served the dual function of City Hall/War Memorial, is also an important work of architecture. Designed by the noted firm of Allen & Collens, Newton City Hall won the Boston Society of Architect's coveted J. Hareston Parker Award in 1936 for the most beautiful building of that period. Finally, the building is enhanced by its park-like setting designed by Olmsted Brothers of Brookline. The Newton City Hall and War Memorial thus meets criteria A & C of the NRHP

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

Newton City Hall is a monumental example of institutional Georgian Revival design that also accommodates the function of War Memorial. The patriotic associations of the style made it particularly popular for town and city halls in the 20th century. Here, even the Aldermanic Chamber is based on a famous Colonial model: Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The War Memorial side (W) of the imposing brick structure consists of a raised central section with a massive pedimented portico and crowning steeple. Appearing diminutive in comparison, are flanking three bay wings trimmed with quoins and baulstrades around their hip roofs. The City Hall side (E) is similar, but with different proportions and far less grandiose portico and steeple. Here the quatrastyle portico is centered on an eleven bay facade articulated with quoins and entablature.

(see continuation sheet)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

When Newton became a city in 1873, the old town hall on Washington Street in West Newton was refurbished and became the City Hall. This building served for 59 years and was not replaced until 1932 when the new City Hall at the corner of Walnut Street and Commonwealth Avenue was built. The new building had a dual function, serving as a memorial to veterans and soldiers who died in World War I, as well as providing new quarters for the City Hall. Two cornerstones, one for the City Hall and one for the War Memorial, were laid on Armistice Day, November 11, 1931 and formal dedication of the combined buildings took place November 11, 1932. Use of the ten acre, triangular site between Commonwealth Avenue and Walnut and Homer Streets was particularly challenging as the dual function of the building demanded two major facades. The design was executed by the firm of Allen and Collens, whose principle architect Charles Collens lived at 200 Dudley Road in Newton Centre. Allen and Collens were particularly well known in the fields of collegiate and ecclesiastical architecture with buildings at

(see continuation sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Building Department Records 1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Graphic 8/16/31, Boston Society of Architects Archives

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Newton (Newton Centre)	Form No: NC-041
Property Name: Newton City Hall & War Memorial	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONT.)

Multi-pane sash are set in rectangular openings at the first story and arched openings with keystones at the second. The flanking wings are identical to those of the west elevation, but project here to form a U-plan and do not appear dwarfed by the central composition. Pedimented entry porticos are also located on the side elevations which are treated with large arched windows in the War Memorial section. The building is greatly enhanced by its Olmsted Brothers designed landscape which was intended to soften the effect of the building. The pond in front of the City Hall side, which provides a reflection of that elevation is especially effective.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (CONT.)

Middlebury, Williams and Vassar to their credit, as well as important churches such as Riverside Church in New York. In Newton they also designed the Second Church of Newton (1915-16, WN-0124). Olmsted Brothers of Brookline provided the park-like setting, completing development of the site.

The city had received permission from the legislature to borrow outside the debt limit in order to construct the building. Although some felt that construction of such a large building during the depression seemed unwise, Mayor Weeks rebutted criticism of the project citing the fact the President Hoover urged public works projects to relieve unemployment and noted that 80% of the men working on the project were Newton residents. In his remarks at the dedication, Weeks said that location of the city hall near the geographical center of the city was quite fitting and that it should mitigate the sectionalism which was sometimes apparent between the various villages. In 1936, Newton City Hall and War Memorial won the J. Hareston Parker Award of the Boston Society of Architects which deemed it the most beautiful building of that period.

Newton, MA-MRA

1000 Commonwealth Avenue

SBL: 64-1-1

Engineering Map - 1979

Page: 72

Scale: 1"=1000' Reduced 64%

